

must remember that we owe all children, including George King, a strong society so that they can grow up in loving families, with faith and reliance in God, in safe and secure neighborhoods, and with hope and opportunity for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know that George King Radanovich will grow up in a strong and loving family. I honor his parents George and Ethie for that and I ask that all my colleagues do the same.

HONORING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ALPHA OUMAR KONARE OF MALI TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Michigan State University community, the people I represent have had the great pleasure of welcoming to Michigan many world leaders who have opened the world to us and introduced us to new cultures. This is why I am so pleased to have his excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, to receive an honorary degree at Michigan State University's May 8th Advanced Degree Commencement Ceremony.

The honorary degree recognizes President Konare's contributions to establishing democracy and peace in Mali, to peacemaking efforts in Africa, and to preserving Mali's cultural heritage through his professional activities as an archaeologist.

In recent years, Mali has moved from a repressive dictatorship to an open parliamentary democracy, a transition which can be largely credited to the leadership and activism of President Konare.

President Konare won the first multiparty presidential election in his country's history and was sworn in as President of the Republic of Mali on June 8, 1992. Prior to his election he was president of the West African Archaeologist Association as well as the first African President of the International Council of Museums.

President Konare's visit celebrates the new and developing partnership the MSU community has had with the people of Mali. In recent years, more than 20 Malians have pursued undergraduate and graduate programs at MSU, while an almost equal amount of American MSU graduate students have conducted their thesis or dissertation research on Mali. The strong research and educational links the MSU community and the people of Mali have forged in recent years can be credited to both President Konare and MSU's great commitment to education and diversity.

But most importantly, President Konare's visit reaffirms the friendship between the MSU community and the people of Mali, and it is my hope that we continue developing new initiatives that will, together, take us well into the 21st Century.

Through President Konare's leadership, the MSU community views the Republic of Mali as more than just a friend of the United States; Mali is our partner in education. I thank President Konare for his contribution to democracy, his worldwide leadership, and his commitment to Michigan State University.

HONORING THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the enormous success of the Queens Borough Public Library system, which was cited in last Tuesday's Washington Post as "far and away the busiest in the United States." Queens has the largest public library system in the country in terms of circulation, and the second largest in terms of holdings.

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Borough Public Library has enjoyed its overwhelming popularity due to the very trait that makes Queens, and indeed all of New York, so very special, namely the diversity of its inhabitants. One in three Queens residents hails from another country and nearly half of the Borough's residents speak a language other than English at home. Queens Borough Public Library's New Americans Program was established in 1977 to provide special services to the area's many new immigrants. The library's collections include, at the Central Library, 101,000 items in Spanish and 93,000 items in Chinese, the country's largest collections in those languages. In addition, the system has thousands of items in Korean, Russian, and South Asian languages.

Mr. Speaker, aside from its impressive collection of books, the Queens Borough Public Library offers a wide array of services designed to ease and facilitate immigrants' assimilation into American society. Queens has the largest library-managed English-as-a-Second-Language program in the country, annually serving nearly 3,000 students, representing 88 countries and 50 languages. It also publishes the "Queens Directory of Immigrant-Serving Agencies," a compilation which includes over 150 agencies that provide free or low-cost social services to immigrants in Queens in 50 different languages. There are many other free lectures and programs available to the library's users.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read the article from the Washington Post. The Queens Borough Public Library deserves this recognition, and I would once more like to offer my heartfelt congratulations for their fine work.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 27, 1998]

A BOROUGHFUL OF BOOKWORMS

MOTIVATED IMMIGRANTS MAKE QUEENS LIBRARY BUSIEST IN U.S.

(By Blaine Harden)

NEW YORK, April 27—Pin-Pin Lin treks twice a week with her two sons and a big shopping bag to a crowded library in the borough of Queens. The Taiwanese immigrant herds her boys as they plunder books from library shelves and toss them in the bag.

Sitting between her sons at a library table while they rifle through the books, she looks up words in an English-Cantonese dictionary and frets about any "no-good" English words they might read, speak or think.

"I no want to miss anything," explains Lin, who every Thursday morning, when her boys are in school, attends English language class at the Queens library. "If I don't learn about American culture and speak English, I could lose them. If they think I not understand, they not do what I say."

Book-obsessed, worrywart immigrants like Pin-Pin Lin are the driving reason why the Queens Public Library is far and away the busiest in the United States. Most library books in Queens do not go out of date. They wear out from overuse and fall to pieces.

The library circulates the nation's highest number of books, tapes and videos—15.3 million a year.

In the sprawling borough that lies across the East River from Manhattan, library card holders check out more books per capita than users of any big city library system in the country. The 1.95 million residents of Queens use the public library five times more frequently than residents of the District of Columbia, twice as often as residents of Prince George's County and a third more frequently than people in Montgomery County.

The Los Angeles library serves about 1.4 million more people than the Queens library, but last year people in Queens checked out 4 million more books.

"We have complaints all the time from our older clientele, who want quiet and who want space. Well, our libraries aren't quiet and, for the most part, they aren't spacious," says Gary Strong, director of the Queens Public Library, one of three public library networks in the city. There is also a library system in Brooklyn and the New York Public Library serves Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island.

"The people who use our library are highly motivated," Strong adds. "They want jobs. They want to learn how to live in America."

Queens has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents of any borough in New York, a city that at the end of the 20th century is sponging up one of the great waves of immigration in its history. Nearly half the residents of Queens speak a language other than English at home. More than a third were born in a foreign country.

The extraordinary love affair between immigrants and libraries is a century-old story in New York, as it is in other American cities that have been immigrant gateways. The most crowded libraries in New York have always been in neighborhoods with the largest population of recent immigrants.

That love affair continues at the end of the century, but with complications, especially in Queens. The book lovers who elbow each other for space in the library's 62 branches are more than ever before a mixed bunch—racially, linguistically and culturally.

The busiest branch in the nation's busiest library system is in Flushing, which has been inundated in the past decade with Chinese, Korean, Indian, Russian, Colombian and Afghan immigrants. Until a handsome new library building opens this summer, the Flushing branch is crammed into a former furniture store.

Inside, there are not nearly enough little chairs for all the little kids who wiggle and squeal and devour picture book after picture book. Stacks of blue plastic-coated foam pads are available so kids and parents can sit on the tile floor.

Queues form behind computer terminals that allow immigrants to search home country periodicals using Chinese, Korean and Roman writing systems. "Watch Your Belongings!" signs are in English, Spanish and Chinese.

There are no public bathrooms—space being too precious to waste on nonessentials. But there are librarians who speak Russian, Hindi, Chinese, Korean, Gujarati and Spanish.

"Have you ever wondered where the new South Asian materials are?" asks a sign taped to a pillar in the Flushing branch library. "Well, wonder no more. They're here! You can find materials in: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam and Urdu."

"We have gone from a dozen countries to a hundred countries," says Strong. "We are not just waiting for them to come to us after they have solved all their problems, after they have a job and after they have the kids in school. We go after them. We advertise. We do not check their immigration status."

Immigration had already transformed Flushing from a staid middle-class Italian and Jewish community into a polyglot boom town when Ruth Herzburg took over eight years ago as library branch manager. Herzburg quickly discovered that the branch was falling behind the newcomer mix.

Herzburg tentatively put a small collection of Korean-language books out on a shelf five years ago. "Those books walked off the shelves. Before that, we didn't really know the Koreans were here," she said.

As immigrants make the transition from their native language to English, Herzburg says they hunger for basically the same kinds of books—translations of potboiler American fiction like Danielle Steel, self-help books and computer books. Many immigrants to Queens have technical skills, she says, and they demand science, technology and business books.

By spending more money per capita on books and other materials than any other major urban American library system, the Queens Public Library has marshaled its resources to seduce each new group of immigrants and lure them into the branches.

The seduction starts by sending library emissaries to immigrant associations that work with recent arrivals. In the languages of the immigrants, they explain how the library can show them how to get a driver's license, navigate the Internet and learn English. The library runs the largest English-as-a-second-language program in the country and says it could double its enrollment if it had more space and money.

"Starting with survival skills, they get introduced to the library and it is often the beginning of a lifelong habit," said Adriana Acauan Tandler, head of the library's New Americans program and herself an immigrant from Brazil.

Using census data and a demographer and by commissioning polls among Queens residents, the library has been able to spot holes in library usage. The biggest hole in the late 1980s was among Spanish speakers.

The library went after them with an aggressive public relations campaign. It translated applications for library cards into Spanish, purchased spots on Spanish radio and pulled together a Spanish collection of 100,000 items in 10 branches.

"In just three years, we found that Spanish speakers were using the library as much as anybody in the borough. They read everything from Cervantes to 'Superman.' The secret of our success is that we give people what they want, instead of what we think they should have," Acauan Tandler said.

What adults want, above all else, is translations of American bestsellers in their own language. The library tries to buy them quickly and in quantity. At the Flushing branch, the head librarian has about \$125,000 a year to spend as she wishes on "hot" books.

"We don't wait for the central office to send out popular books. We like to go around to all the local bookstores and buy popular books off the shelves. All the books are in foreign languages. We don't even have an English-language bookstore in Flushing," said Herzburg.

Pin-Pin Lin tries to steer her boys, ages 10 and 13, away from Chinese-language books. She prefers they read only in English. To that end, she makes sure they leave the library after each visit with 20 or so English books in the shopping bag.

"I don't care if they read all. Kid is kid. If they don't like books, I bring them back and get more," said Lin.

UNDERSTANDING U.S. NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP IN PUERTO RICO

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to submit for the RECORD a letter dealing with U.S. citizenship and Puerto Ricans dated April 9, 1998, which I received during out recent recess. Its author, Dick Thornburgh, is well-known as a former two-term Governor of my home state of Pennsylvania and as our former U.S. Attorney General.

I join Governor Thornburgh in praising Federal District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin and the State Department for their proper applications of federal immigration laws. In an opinion and order filed April 23, 1998, Federal District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin upheld the policy adopted by the U.S. Department of State on the question of whether persons with U.S. nationality and citizenship based on birth in Puerto Rico can renounce that status and remain in Puerto Rico without a visa. In a ruling that was legally and morally correct, the Court said "no" to the absurd proposition that a person who becomes an alien under federal immigration and nationality law applicable in Puerto Rico in order to become an alien does not have to comply with federal law requiring aliens to get a visa to remain in the United States.

The right of U.S. citizenship and all the benefits it provides should not be the subject of mockery. American citizenship refers to more than just status. It exemplifies all this country represents—the spirit of liberty and democratic values. I commend this letter for all to read.

STATEMENT OF DICK THORNBURGH ON THE DANGERS OF JUDICIAL USURPATION OF PUERTO RICO'S POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION

Puerto Rico has been under the sovereignty of the United States for one hundred years, and Puerto Ricans have been citizens of the United States for 81 years. However, the political status of Puerto Rico remains unsettled and advocates within Puerto Rico of separatism under the American flag are working to exploit that political uncertainty. The tactics employed by these advocates harms all U.S. citizens—whether they reside in one of the states of the Union or in Puerto Rico. Separatists within Puerto Rico have been forced to find a way around the 95% of Puerto Ricans who want U.S. citizenship, and they have found support among local judges appointed by the last separatist governor of Puerto Rico.

The will of the people of Puerto Rico was reflected on November 17, 1997, when the Governor of Puerto Rico signed into law a statute approved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico defining a "citizen of Puerto Rico" as a person with United States nationality and citizenship who is a lawful resident of Puerto Rico. This new law affirmed the principles of U.S. constitutional federalism as embodied in the local Puerto Rican constitution, recognized one U.S. nationality based citizenship under the American flag, and clearly expressed the loyalty and patriotism of the 3.8 American citizens of Puerto Rico.

In contrast to the measure adopted by elected leaders, on November 18, 1997, the local territorial court issued a ruling suspending enforcement of a decades old statute requiring U.S. citizenship in order to vote in local elections in Puerto Rico. A majority on the territorial court was appointed by a former governor who supports a perpetual "commonwealth" status for Puerto Rico in which the territory would have some of the attributes of both a state of the union and a separate nation. The local court's decision to exempt Juan Mari Bras, a pro-Castro socialist who renounced his U.S. nationality, from the local U.S. citizenship requirement for voting is based on a doctrine that a separate legal nationality for Puerto Ricans exists within the U.S. constitutional system. While there are many nationalities within the U.S. in the sense of cultural heritage and identity, there is and can be only one legal and constitutional form of national citizenship.

In addition to running afoul of the one legal nationality principle, the local Supreme Court's decision also constitutes an official action by a co-equal branch of the territorial government to nullify application of federal law. Specifically, the local court ruled that a person who has been certified by the State Department to be an alien can nonetheless remain in a territory of the U.S. without a visa or other legal authority from the U.S. The Puerto Rican court held that a non-citizen could remain in Puerto Rico and enjoy all the rights of a separate Puerto Rican nationality and citizenship—even though he has not complied with the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.

Aware of the local court's decision, the State Department adopted a policy of denying certification of loss of citizenship to persons who intend to remain in Puerto Rico based on a claim of local citizenship. On January 27, 1998, in the case of a "copy cat" renunciation by one Alberto Lozada Colon, the Department of State reiterated the fundamental point that the U.S. citizenship of Puerto Ricans is supreme to their citizenship of the constituent territory of the U.S. This will prevent further "copy cat" cases and provides the basis for bringing the previous cases into compliance with U.S. immigration law, thereby rendering meaningless the reckless action by the Puerto Rican court in contravention of federal supremacy.

However, this episode underscores the importance of resolving Puerto Rico's status. H.R. 856, as approved by the House on March 4, 1998, would provide a process to end the current ambiguities about Puerto Rico, and it is hoped the Senate will act soon on this matter. To help sort out the issues of nationality and citizenship related to status, the following principles and legal requirements must be recognized.

Similar to a State of the Union, Puerto Rico has sufficient sovereignty over its internal affairs under the local constitution to prescribe the qualifications of voters. However, Puerto Rico's local sovereignty is a statutory delegation of the authority of Congress to govern territories, and is not a vested, guaranteed or permanent form of sovereignty such as the states have under the 10th Amendment. Even if it were, no state of the Union, much less an unincorporated commonwealth territory, has the power to declare that the citizenship of the state or territory survives legally effective renunciation of U.S. nationality and citizenship (see, discussion below of *Davis v. District Director*, 481 F. Supp. 1178 (1979)). Yet, that is precisely what the territorial court in Puerto Rico has attempted to do in the case of Juan Mari Bras.

While Puerto Rico has powers of local government which in some respects are like the